

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 3200

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,PORT

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: NAM SUMMIT: BILATERAL ISSUES
WITHIN MOVEMENT

SUMMARY: PRESSURES OF TIME, APPEALS TO SWEET REASON,
AND HONEST DESIRE TO AVOID ACONTROVERSY SERVED TO MAKE
NAM SUMMIT LESS INTERNALLY CONTENTIOUS THAN SOME
MEMBERS HAD FEARED. NUMEROUS BILATERAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN
MEMBER COUNTRIES WERE PAPERED OVER, IGNORED BY MUTUAL
CONSENT, OR STRUCK FROM RECORD AFTER VEHEMENT OBJECTIONS
HAD MADE CONSENSUS UNOBTAINABLE. MAJOR POTENTIAL
BLOW-UP OVER WESTERN SAHARA CONSUMED MUCH DEBATING
TIME, BUT FINAL LANGUAGE WAS TOLERATED GRUDGINGLY BY
ALGERIA, WHICH HAD TO EAT CROW, AND BY MOROCCO AND
MAURITANIA, WHICH WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO AVOID
REFERENCE TO AN OAU SUMMIT. MAJOR DEFEAT FOR MALAYSIA
WAS SOUTHEAST ASIA ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM, AND
NEUTRALITY ISSUE WHICH WAS STRUCK FROM FINAL TEXT,
AFTER COMPORMISE PROVED IMPOSSIBLE BETWEEN
INTRANSIGENT INDOCHINA STATES AND SOME OF ASEAN
COUNTIRES. ANALYSIS OF WHO WON, WHO LOST ON OTHER
BILATERAL ISSUES MUST BE DONE BY THOSE MORE FAMILIAR
WITH NUANCES OF LANGUAGE ON THESE MATTERS. END SUMMARY.

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2. AT BEGINNING OF NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE, MUCH

SPECULATION CENTERED ON WHETHER BILATERAL DISPUTES BETWEEN MEMBER COUNTRIES WOULD OVERSHADOW COMMON NON-ALIGNED ISSUES AND MAKE FORCE OF NAM UNITY. IN FACT THIS DID NOT HAPPEN. THE PUBLIC FACADE WAS GENERALLY WELL-MAINTAINED, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE ANGRY SHOUTING MATCHES DURING SOME COMMITTEE SESSIONS.

3. THE MOST CONTENTIOUS BILATERAL ISSUE WAS PROBABLY THE DISPUTE BETWEEN MOROCCO, MAURITANIA, AND ALGERIA OVER WESTERN SAHARA. LONG DEBATE WITHIN POLITICAL COMMITTEE ON THIS ISSUE SERVED TO DOMINATE PROCEEDINGS AND SIDETRACK OTHER ISSUES UNTIL LAST MINUTE. THE SAHARA QUESTION HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF AN ATTEMPT AT COMPROMISE BY AN ARAB LEAGUE MEETING DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF THE CONFERENCE BUT ALGERIA REFUSED TO GO ALONG WITH THE ARAB CONSENSUS AND PURSUED THE MATTER INTO COMMITTEE. FINAL RESULT, IN POLITICAL DECLARATION, TOOK NOTE OF OAU DECISION TO HOLD SUMMIT ON THE SUBJECT AND HOPED THAT THIS WOULD LEAD TO A JUST AND DURABLE SOLUTION. THIS APPEARED TO BE SOMETHING OF A VICTORY FOR MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA, WHO WERE ANXIOUS TO AVOID STANDARD NAM LANGUAGE OF RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE, ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED NO MENTION OF THE SUBJECT IN CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS.

4. IN ANOTHER CONTROVERSY, TWO ASEAN NAM MEMBERS, MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE, CAME TO GRIEF OVER THEIR PROPOSAL FOR ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY IN SEASIA (COLOMBO 3122). LAOS' AND VIETNAM'S VEHEMENT ANTI-PATHY TO ASEAN APPARENTLY PROMPTED THEIR COUNTER-PROPOSAL REFERRING TO EVENTUAL ATTAINMENT OF "GENUINE INDEPENDENCE" FOR SE ASIAN STATES. SENT OUT TO REACH A COMPROMISE, LAOS AND MALAYSIA RETURNED EMPTY-HANDED AND DESPITE ANGRY OBJECTIONS FROM MALAYSIA, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE SENT THE MATTER BACK TO THE NACC, THUS IN EFFECT REJECTING BOTH PROPOSALS. MALAYSIA WAS PARTICULARLY UPSET SINCE THE KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION AND THE ZONE OF PEACE HAD BEEN MENTIONED IN 1973

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ALGIERS SUMMIT DECLARATION. INTERESTINGLY, WHILE THE OPPOSITION TOOK THE FORM OF A LAOTIAN COUNTER-PROPOSAL AND LAOS DOMINATED DEBATE, VIETNAM TOOK OVER LEADERSHIP IN FOREIGN MINISTERIAL SESSION AFTER HAVING APPARENTLY USED LAOS AS SURROGATE, POSSIBLY TO AVOID GIVING UNDUE OFFENSE AFTER RECENT BRIDGE-BUILDING TOUR OF FOREIGN MINISTER THROUGH SE ASIA.

5. SOME ISSUES WERE SEEN AS DELIBERATELY TROUBLE-SOME--ATTEMPTS TO MAKE POINTS AT EXPENSE OF NON-ALIGNED UNITY. SUCH A TRANSPARENT CASE WAS BANGLADESH PICKING A FIGHT WITH INDIA OVER BOUNDARY AND WATER DISPUTES. BANGLADESH MAY HAVE PRICKED HIDE OF INDIAN CLOSSUS, MOST IT COULD HAVE HOPED, BUT INDIA OUT-DEBATED BANGALEES AND APPEALED TO NON-ALIGNED SOLIDARITY WITH APPARENT SUCCESS.

6. EAST TIMOR WAS ROUGHTLY PARALLEL SITUTION TO WESTERN SAHARA. FOR SAKE OF CONSISTENCY, MANY MOROCCAN SUPPORTERS FELT OBLIGED TO TAKE INDONESIAN SIDE. INDONESIA STALLED AND GOT REASONABLY SATISFACTORY LANGUAGE, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS FLOOD OF RESERVATIONS (SOME SAY UP TO 20). MODERATE LANGUAGE ONLY "AFFIRMED RIGHT OF PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR TO SELF-DETERMINATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNGA AND UNSC RESOLUTIONS." HOWEVER, INDONESIA WAS CLAIMING THAT PEOPLE OF TIMOR HAD ALREADY EXERCISED THAT RIGHT. THUS EVEN MENTION OF EAST TIMOR WAS SETBACK FOR INDONESIA.

7. OTHER ISSUES THAT CAME UP ONLY BRIEFLY INCLUDED:

A. ETHIOPIA VS. SOMALIA--DJIBOUTI REFERENCE IN DELCARATION CALLED FOR GENUINE AND UN-CONDITIONAL INDEPENDENCE, NOT "INDEPENDENCE WITH GUARANTEES" AS CALLED FOR BY EHTIOPIA.
B. PLO VS. SYRIA--DISPUTE OVER LEBANON CIVIL WAR WAS KEPT IN HOUSE BY ARAB STATES WHO SUCCESSFULLY DPZCOURAGED SYRIA FROM RAISING ISSUE. LEBANON ITSELF WAS NOT PRESENT AT THE CONCERENCE.

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C. CHAD VS. LIBYA-CHAD'S AGGRESSIVELY ANTI-LIBYA SPEECH AT SUMMIT WAS THE ONLY REFERENCE TTBTHEIR BORDER DISPUTE.

8. SOME ISSUES WITH POTENTIAL FOR DISCORD DID NOT SURFACE PUBLICLY AT ALL. THESE INCLUDED EGYPT VS. LIBYA, KENYA VS. UGANDA, AND LIBYA VS. SUDAN.
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